

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-38 are pending in the present application. Claim 6 was previously cancelled. Claims 1, 16, and 28 have been amended herein. No new matter has been added.

Claims 7, 20, 26, 31, and 32 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-4 and 8-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as assertedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0090763 to Tseng (hereinafter "Tseng"). Claims 16-19, 21, and 23-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as assertedly being anticipated by Tseng. Claims 28-30, 34-36, and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as assertedly being anticipated by Tseng. Claims 5, 14-15, 22, 27, 33, and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over Tseng in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,864,152 to Mirbedini et al. (hereinafter "Mirbedini").

Regarding claims 1-5 and 7-15, independent claim 1 recites that the active layer in the inactive regions are oxidized. In other words, the active layer is not completely removed in the inactive regions. In contrast, the cited reference Tseng discloses completely removing the active layer within the inactive regions, and therefore, does not disclose, alone or in combination, Applicant's embodiment recited in claim 1.

While Applicant believes the claims are patentable unamended, Applicant has nonetheless amended claim 1 to more clearly recite this feature in an effort to move

prosecution of the present case forward. In particular, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that "the underlying layer is not exposed in the inactive regions."

Because the cited reference, Tseng, does not disclose all of the limitations recited in Applicant's claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn. Claims 2-5 and 7-15 depend from and further limit independent claim 1, and accordingly, it is also respectfully requested that the rejections of dependent claims 2-5 and 7-15 be withdrawn as well.

Regarding claims 16-27, claim 16 recites the step "etching the SOI wafer such that the exposed areas of the active layer are partially removed." In contrast, the cited reference Tseng discloses completely removing the active layer within the inactive regions, and therefore, does not disclose, alone or in combination, Applicant's embodiment recited in claim 16.

While Applicant believes the claims are patentable unamended, Applicant has nonetheless amended claim 16 to more clearly recite this feature in an effort to move prosecution of the present case forward. In particular, Applicant has amended claim 16 to recite the step "etching the SOI wafer such that the exposed areas of the active layer are partially removed without exposing the insulator layer."

Because the cited reference, Tseng, does not disclose all of the limitations recited in Applicant's claim 16, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn. Claims 17-27 depend from and further limit independent claim 16, and accordingly, it is also respectfully requested that the rejections of dependent claims 17-27 be withdrawn as well.

Regarding claims 28-38, claim 28 recites the step "oxidizing the SOI wafer such that oxidized portions of the active layer in the inactive regions extend through to the insulator layer." In contrast, the cited reference Tseng discloses completely removing the active layer within the inactive regions, and therefore, does not disclose, alone or in combination, Applicant's embodiment recited in claim 28.

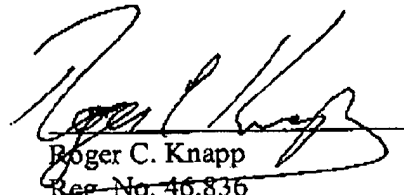
While Applicant believes the claims are patentable unamended, Applicant has nonetheless amended claim 28 to more clearly recite this feature in an effort to move prosecution of the present case forward. In particular, Applicant has amended claim 28 to recite the limitation "the insulator layer not being exposed in the inactive regions."

Because the cited reference, Tseng, does not disclose all of the limitations recited in Applicant's claim 28, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn. Claims 29-37 depend from and further limit independent claim 28, and accordingly, it is also respectfully requested that the rejections of dependent claims 29-37 be withdrawn as well.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that this response complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicant further submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added by this amendment. If the Examiner should have any questions, please contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, in the event that there are any fees due, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,


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